

revitalized the edge of campus through the Campus Partners initiative. These improvements have enhanced student life, revitalized an urban neighborhood and provided high-quality destinations for the campus community and visitors alike.

With annual research expenditures now at \$652 million a year, Ohio State is ranked 8th among public research universities in the nation by the National Science Foundation based on the amount of sponsored research. Also, the University has risen from 5th to 3rd among public universities in industry-sponsored research. Holbrook presided over the creation of the Undergraduate Research Office to encourage and enable undergraduate students to connect to research projects as part of their educational experience. As a result, more than 300 students now participate in the annual Denman Undergraduate Forum.

Finally, Holbrook has led the University into strong partnerships in the community, especially with renowned research institute Battelle, which includes the Metro High School for students interested in science, technology, engineering and math, the Urban Arts Center, WOSU@COSI (a collaboration of the university's public media stations and the Center for Science and Industry), and the Battelle Center for Mathematics and Science Education Policy at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. These partnerships and initiatives are already bearing fruit, and their impact and importance will only increase down the road.

It is truly a pleasure to have worked with President Holbrook over the last 5 years and to have joined her in efforts that increased the prominence and reputation of a great institution. The Ohio State University is a better place because of Holbrook's leadership, and for that, all Buckeyes are forever in her debt. Go Bucks. Beat Michigan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY ACT OF 2007

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Act (MMNTA) of 2007. This legislation is cosponsored by my friends and colleagues Representatives MICHAEL CASTLE (R-DE), DIANA DEGETTE (D-CO) and MARK KIRK (R-IL).

The MMNTA of 2007 authorizes Medicare to expand the use of medical nutrition therapy to treat any disease for which empirical research has shown clinical value. The American Dietetic Association has endorsed this important legislation.

In 2000, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences found that medical nutrition therapy is effective as part of a comprehensive approach to the treatment and management of the following conditions: diabetes, heart failure, kidney failure, dyslipidemia (a total cholesterol condition as well as other abnormalities in blood lipid levels) and hypertension. In response to this study, Congress allowed Medicare to reimburse medical nutrition therapy for beneficiaries with diabetes and renal diseases.

Specifically, the benefit Congress added includes an initial assessment of a beneficiary's nutrition and lifestyle, nutrition counseling, information regarding managing lifestyle factors that affect diet and follow-up visits to monitor the beneficiary's progress. Medicare covers three hours of one-on-one counseling services the first year, and two hours each year after that. The benefit provides additional treatment hours when the beneficiary's condition, treatment, or diagnosis changes and a physician refers the beneficiary. A physician must prescribe these services and renew them yearly if continuing treatment is needed.

In 2004, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report that reiterated that medical nutrition therapy is effective as part of a comprehensive approach to the management and treatment of dyslipidemia (referred to as hyperlipidemia in the HHS report) and hypertension. This study's corroboration of IOM's earlier findings demonstrates that many Medicare beneficiaries who could benefit from this treatment cannot access it through Medicare.

Moreover, expanding the use of medical nutrition therapy has the potential to be a cost effective means of providing health care. Recently, the Pfizer Corporation piloted a 6-month nutrition and exercise intervention program for employees with hyperlipidemia. The study concluded that this intervention reduced Low-density Lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol 12 months later. And, the participating employees had their risk for heart disease reduced by 19 percent. The intervention could save an estimated \$728,722 annually if offered to the entire Pfizer population.

Unfortunately, the method that Congress established to determine eligibility for medical nutrition therapy is flawed. Congress specified in law which diseases should receive medical nutrition therapy instead of leaving that judgment to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as is the custom for other benefits provided by the program.

CMS has the experts and infrastructure to make these important decisions based on empirical research. As part of its administration of the Medicare program, CMS determines the items and services that are reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury suffered by Medicare beneficiaries. CMS makes national coverage determinations by evaluating medical literature and data and information on the effectiveness and appropriateness of medical items and services that are being considered for Medicare coverage. During this process, the public has the opportunity to provide comments. In some cases, CMS' own research is supplemented by an outside assessment and/or consultation with a Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MedCAC). A MedCAC consists of outside experts who supplement CMS career staff examination of an issue. These committees examine the strength of available evidence and make recommendations to CMS on coverage decisions.

By passing this legislation, Congress would increase access to medical nutrition therapy to Medicare beneficiaries through a thoughtful and scientific approach. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have the appropriate access to medical nutrition therapy.

CONGRATULATING JIMMIE GOLDEN ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to commemorate the 80th birthday of Mr. Jimmie Golden. Mr. Golden is a highly-regarded figure and establishment in the "McDonald's Coffee" group, and his contributions to the group are immeasurable.

The McDonald's Coffee group meets every morning in Milton, a city in my district in Northwest Florida. It is there that a regular group meets to discuss news and current affairs, and Jimmie Golden is a consistent presence. Jimmie is not just there to listen, though—his knowledge in both domestic and foreign affairs is vast. His awareness of the events going on, how the past has affected these events, and the possible implications for the future is worldly by any standard. Those that listen to his input pay close attention as they know Jimmie puts a lot of thought and knowledge into what he says.

Jimmie Golden is not only a great contributor of knowledge and information; he is also a great listener. This listening is not just at the McDonald's Coffee group, either. Jimmie is someone always willing to help others, and he would bend over backwards to better the life of another. Calling Jimmie a humanitarian could be an understatement; he would help every single person if he could. In fact, his service in the United States Navy protecting the freedom our country enjoys accomplished that goal.

Madam Speaker, it is not often enough that a person of Jimmie Golden's caliber comes along, and I am grateful that he calls Northwest Florida home as we recognize and congratulate him on his 80th birthday. Our Nation is a better place because of people like Jimmie.

IN MEMORY OF ROY P. LEWSADER, JR.

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor S. Sgt. Roy P. Lewsader, Jr. of Clinton, Indiana, who died on June 16, 2007. While fighting for our country in Afghanistan, a rocket-propelled grenade detonated near his vehicle in Tarin Kowt.

Roy was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. He joined the U.S. Army in 1988 and served until his death as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

To serve our country in the U.S. military is an honorable and noble profession. Roy's service to our country in life, as well as in death, epitomizes what it means to be an American hero.

During his more than 13 year service to our country, Roy distinguished himself as soldier and leader. He received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, as well as the Army Achievement Medal three times and the Army Commendation Award.

Roy Lewsader, Jr. gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country and will be remembered as a hero, a father, and a husband. On behalf of all of the people of the 8th District, I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Melissa; daughters, Briana, Ozzra'D, Cheyenne, and Keebee; son, Billy; and the rest of his family and friends who love and miss him today.

SENATOR BYRD'S HISTORIC 18,000th
VOTE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today is an historic date in the United States Congress, and for my State of West Virginia. Today, our State's senior Senator—the senior Senator of all Senior Senators—and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, ROBERT C. BYRD, has just cast his 18,000th vote.

On April 30, 1990, Senator BYRD cast his 12,134th vote, surpassing Senator William Proxmire, the previous record holder.

Now, he has cast 18,000 votes. Talk about a record. They say records are made to be broken. I will be very surprised if anyone ever breaks this one. It would take a Senator on super steroids!

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity, not only to congratulate my fellow West Virginian, and my mentor, but to say how proud the people of West Virginia are of him.

Senator BYRD was a virtual orphan boy raised by his aunt and coal-mining uncle in the hills of southern West Virginia. Through hard work, determination, a strong religious belief, an unrelenting drive to gain knowledge, and his belief that the United States is indeed the land of opportunity, he has climbed to the highest pinnacle of political success. He went from a coal miner's shack to the ornate Appropriations Committee Suite he now occupies in the U.S. Capitol. Unable to afford college after graduating from high school, he became the first person to begin and complete law school while serving in the United States Congress.

He has worked pumping gas and as a butcher in a local grocery store, and as a welder in the shipyards of Baltimore and Tampa during World War II. After the war, he owned and operated a grocery store in Sophia, West Virginia. These are unlikely jobs for someone with the kind of power our Senator has come to wield in Washington. But I believe they helped to mold the man in a way that I think would be of benefit to more of our leaders, and, in turn, to our nation. I think the world of politics would have a better reputation if more politicians lived the kind of hard-scrabble life that Senator BYRD endured in his younger days. Certainly, it would be better if more of us had a wonderful woman like his gracious Erma—his angel in heaven—by our sides, giving us counsel and encouragement.

Now Senator BYRD has cast more votes than any other U.S. Senator, and he has done so approaching each vote with depth of thought and breadth of experience.

He has held more Senate leadership positions than any other Senator, including two stints as the Senate Majority Leader. And, as I have already mentioned, he is the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

While he is the longest serving Senator in history, I am pleased to point out that on December 2, 2009, he will have served in the U.S. Congress for a total of 56 years, 10 months, and 29 days, making him the longest serving member of Congress in history. I am already preparing my remarks for that historic day.

HONORING MY MOTHER

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my personal heroes, my mother, Maria Sánchez, on her retirement yesterday after 30 years teaching in the classroom. I can honestly and proudly say that my mother is a true American success story.

An immigrant, she came to this country without knowing English, without much money in her pocket, and without a job waiting for her.

Her life's been hard, and we kids didn't make it any easier. But she and my father taught us to work hard, persevere, and play by the rules.

My mother raised seven children and sent them all to college. She is the only mother in U.S. history to send two daughters to Congress.

And she did this while going to night school to get her A.A., then her B.A., then a teaching credential and, ultimately, a master's degree. She cleaned houses in her "spare time," and found creative ways to make ends meet for a family of nine.

As an English/Spanish dual-immersion teacher, she helped children better express themselves and communicate with each other—shaping our community one student at a time.

Her teaching career may be ending, but she'll keep leading and touching lives. Mom, here's to you!

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RE-
LATED PROGRAMS APPROPRI-
ATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, during times of crisis, the United States has always supported her friends. Egypt is our friend. Egypt is not only our friend, Egypt is our strategic partner, our peace partner and our military partner in the Middle East. It is shameful how we are treating our friend with the restrictions on military aid to Egypt in this bill. As

such, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment by Rep. ANTHONY WEINER removing \$200 million in military aid to Egypt, and in strong support of the amendment by Rep. CHARLES BOUSTANY allowing military support to continue to Egypt without conditions. Egypt and the United States have a valuable, key and strategic partnership, one that has been underscored by the recent developments in the Gaza Strip. It would be toxic to the relationship that the United States has with Egypt, and our relationship to those moderate Arab states in the Middle East, for this bill to be adopted with these restrictions.

In April of this year, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said that: "I have long considered Egypt one of America's most important, even indispensable, partners. . . Security challenges in the Middle East are significant, but can be overcome by Egypt and the United States working closely together in the region." Just last week, the world saw Hamas take over the Gaza Strip. Hundreds, if not thousands, of men, women, children, senior citizens, and the disabled are fleeing this region as refugees, many ending up in Egypt.

In response to this crisis, Egypt's President, Hosni Mubarak, has invited Israel's Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and Jordan's President King Abdullah II for a summit this Monday, June 25, 2007 in an effort to negotiate peace in this region. I commend to my colleagues the following portion of an article dated June 21, 2007 from the Associated Press that goes into more detail about the summit:

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK.—Closing ranks against Hamas, Egypt's president invited Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian leaders to a peace summit, officials said Thursday, the biggest show of support yet by moderate Arab states for beleaguered Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The meeting will take place Monday in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, said Israeli government spokeswoman Miri Eisin. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has invited Abbas, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Jordan's King Abdullah II. Jordan confirmed Abdullah would attend.

Abbas will call for a resumption of peace talks with Israel, arguing that only progress toward Palestinian statehood can serve as a true buffer against Hamas, which took control of Gaza by force last week, Abbas aide Saeb Erekat said.

"The most important thing to realize is that time is of the essence," Erekat said. "We need to deliver the end of occupation, a Palestinian state. If we don't have hope, Hamas will export despair to the people."

As immediate steps, Abbas will ask Israel to remove West Bank checkpoints that disrupt daily life and trade, and to transfer hundreds of millions of dollars in Palestinian tax funds Israel froze after Hamas came to power last year.

Also on Thursday, Palestinian dual nationals and foreigners working in Gaza were allowed to pass through Israel for other points. About 60 Palestinian-Americans left Gaza for Jordan, and eight World Bank employees left the coastal strip, an Israeli army spokeswoman said.

Late Wednesday, 35 Gazans who had been stuck at the main Gaza-Israel passenger crossing for several days were sent to Egypt via Israel, the spokeswoman said. Among those who left were gunmen from Abbas' Fatah movement, their wives and children.

Hundreds of men, women and children rushed to the crossing after the Hamas takeover, among them Fatah loyalists who feared